

AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN



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In Memoriam

New Members

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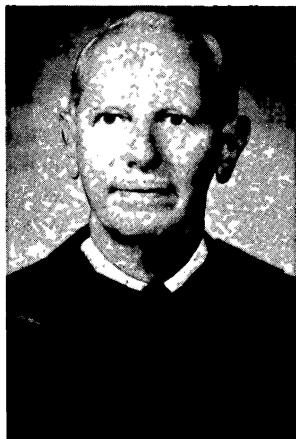
Copies of this issue to all members

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$3.00 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

Annual (individual)	\$7.00
Annual (family)	\$10.00
Annual (sustaining)	\$25.00
Life Membership	\$125.00
Annual (Institutional)	\$10.00
Contributing—Any amount	

IN MEMORIAM — DR. JAMES SPRUNT 1901-1981



Dr. James Sprunt, whose lifetime of service to mankind included vigorous activity in many areas of worthwhile endeavor, died on December 21, 1981, at Staunton, Virginia.

A charter member of the Augusta County Historical Society, which was founded only four years prior to his retirement from the pastorate of the County's historic Bethel Presbyterian Church, Dr. Sprunt served the Society as

its fourth president from 1968 to 1970 and always did his utmost to expand its influence and enhance its effectiveness.

Born January 24, 1901, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, Dr. Sprunt held degrees from Davidson College and the Union Theological Seminary of Virginia, B.D., when he received his Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1926; D.D. conferred by Hampden-Sydney College in 1945. His career included many pastorates prior to his eleven-year tenure at Bethel, and Presbyterians applauded his pioneering efforts in promoting youth involvement and furthering the role of women at all levels of the denomination.

Co-author of "From Bondage to Freedom" for the Covenant Life Curriculum, Dr. Sprunt had served as vice president of the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Home at Lynchburg and as a trustee of Union Theological Seminary, Presbyterian School of Christian Education, King College, Peace College, and St. Andrew's College. His ecumenical work was focused in years of service on the denomination's Committee on Christian Relations. A Rotarian, he served on the boards of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace and the Staunton Area Association for Retarded Citizens, was treasurer of the Augusta Bird Club, and volunteered as a chaplain on the staff of King's Daughters' Hospital.

After his term as president of the Augusta County Historical Society, he remained active in our work, known to every resident member for his genial, encouraging attitude, as well as for his

unfailing willingness to lend his guidance and advice to Society ventures. As such, he came to play a major role in what was perhaps the Society's proudest achievement since its founding — its 1976 publication of *Great Valley Patriots*.

The Society's smooth and successful 1980 republication of the 1885 *Augusta County Atlas* might lead one to underestimate the challenge that faced the organization in early 1973, when it was offered the opportunity to sponsor and publish a definitive history of the long-neglected role of Valley patriots in the Revolutionary War. It was proposed as the Society's contribution to the American Bicentennial; yet, at the time, it was no more than a dream in its author's mind, and the Society had neither money nor manuscript nor experience in publishing and marketing such a volume.

The need for a chairman to direct the project as a special venture outside the Society's normal work was apparent; and when asked to undertake what proved to be a far more herculean task than anyone imagined, Dr. Sprunt enthusiastically accepted the assignment. From February 26, 1973, until he gave the concluding report on the project on November 10, 1976, Dr. Sprunt focused the full range of his energy and ability on the goal of seeing *Great Valley Patriots* published.

Without question, it was a team effort; but Dr. Sprunt was the diligent crusader who always found a way to overcome the delays and problems that seemed to beset the project at every phase from initial research to ultimate distribution. It was he who, after countless disappointments and vain hopes, painstakingly raised over \$16,000.00 from sources as varied as carefully-cultivated private contributors and the American Bicentennial Association itself.

Great Valley Patriots was indeed the inspiration of its learned author, Dr. Howard M. Wilson; but that noted historian himself would often acknowledge the debt owed to Dr. Sprunt for seeing that dream to fruition. When one of the first copies of the book was handed to Dr. Sprunt, as the genial project chairman was later to tell the members of the Society, "I think that wherever you were, you must have heard me singing the 'Hallelujah Chorus.'"

On November 10, 1976, on the recommendation of the Board, the membership of this Society conferred honorary life membership on Dr. Sprunt for his service above and beyond the call of duty on its behalf.

The Augusta County Historical Society remembers well the joy and inspiration of working with Dr. James Sprunt during the past eighteen years and extends its profound sympathy to his widow, son, and daughter.

THE AUGUSTA COUNTY MILITIA

LTC Walter M. McCracken, USA Retired

In bringing this subject to you this evening, there will have to be some words on Militia, and others on The Virginia Militia, to lead us to The Augusta County Militia. It is not a history of America's wars, and these will only be mentioned to illustrate the main subject: The Militia.

In the 17th century, danger in the American colonies was immediate. Each man in Virginia was required to carry a weapon to church. The 1634 law especially ordered Virginia to be divided into eight shires (counties) "to be governed as the shires in England" with "lieutenants to be appointed, the same as in England, and in a more especial manner to take care of the war against the Indians." In 1632 it was ordered in Virginia that the "commanders of the several plantations, doe upon holydays exercise the men under theire command." Virginia's organization was largely by counties.

As dangers became less local and less frequent, a gradual change in basis took place. Thus, in Virginia, at the two extremes of the colonial period, we find: in 1629, Governor Potts appointed Capt. Thomas Osborne to raise and levy "a sufficient number of men in the plantations and go against the Indians"; and in 1754 the assembly granted money for enlisting and maintaining volunteers, which enabled Col. George Washington to secure for the campaign that ended at Fort Necessity, "loose, idle persons, that are quite destitute of house and home, and many of them of clothes." Even the personal obligation was only partial, as was demonstrated in an early instance in Virginia, in 1629, when it was ordered "that every commander of the several plantations shall levy a party of men out of the inhabitants, so many as may well be spared without weakening the plantations, and to employ them against the Indians."

* Delivered to the Augusta County Historical Society on 11 November 1981.

This colonial militia constituted a force of the people, as opposed to the garrisons of British regulars which were forces of the crown and Tories. In 1676 it was deeply involved in Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia.

The 176th Infantry in eastern Virginia, with its motto "Liberty or Death," traces its history to the 1st Infantry (Virginia), organized in 1652 in the Colony of Virginia as the Charles City-Henrico Counties Regiment of Militia.

Ninety years later we find the origin of the 116th Infantry in western Virginia, with its motto "Ever Forward," in the Augusta County Regiment of Militia, Colonel James Patton, organized in the Virginia Militia in 1742.

The Virginia Regiment was constituted and formed in January 1754 from elements of the militia forces of all Virginia counties; elements from the Augusta County Regiment were commanded by Captain Andrew Lewis. This was in response to pressures by the French in the Ohio Valley. One of these first two companies raised, commanded by Captain William Trent, was sent in February to build a fort at what is now Pittsburgh. At the same time steps were taken by Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie to increase the remaining force to a regiment of six companies, all volunteers, of which George Washington was appointed lieutenant colonel and Joshua Fry colonel. At least five companies for the Virginia Regiment had been recruited by mid-year.

In October the Regiment was broken up into ten independent companies with no field officers; but the following year saw it incorporated again with sixteen companies. Washington was appointed colonel, Adam Stephen lieutenant colonel, and Andrew Lewis major. The Virginia Regiment was continuously employed for seven years.

In July 1755 Colonel James Patton of the Augusta County Regiment was killed; Captain Andrew Lewis was promoted to Colonel commanding the Augusta Regiment. In the following month, three Ranger Companies were organized in Augusta County. During 1758-1759 the Virginia Regiment was merged with the Augusta Regiment.

The Virginia Regiment was expanded in March, 1758, to form the 2d Virginia Regiment, Colonel William Byrd commanding, and the 1st Virginia Regiment with Colonel George Washington. But not everything ran smoothly for these commanders during the French and Indian War, 1754-1763. An

advertisement dated 19 July 1757 lists 108 men who had been drafted from the militia to serve in the Virginia Regiment, and who had deserted. Two deserters from the Frontier Battalion, then headquartered at Staunton under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William Peachey, went off on 28 October 1759 in their regiments.

Nine months after the formation of the 1st and 2d Virginia Regiments, in December 1758 the 2d Virginia Regiment was mustered out. Finally, in 1762, at Fort Lewis, Augusta County, the 1st Virginia Regiment was mustered out, with militiamen returning to their county organizations, and the old Regiment came to an end. But not for long! The Virginia Regiment was reorganized in March of that year; Augusta elements were commanded by Colonel Andrew Lewis. Then in May of 1763 it was disbanded.

During this period the white settlers were not passive, and the eastern ridges of the Alleghanies were fortified and manned. Thirty captains of militia were appointed in Augusta County alone, plus other officers. Peyton quotes a letter that declares that the tomahawk was an important part of the equipment of the Valley militiaman. They held to the tenet that the only good Indian was a dead Indian, and it is significant that the Indian name for them was "Long Knives."

The Virginia Regiment (Dunmore Brigade) was organized in June 1774 with Colonel Charles Lewis commanding the Augusta County Regiment (Lewis Brigade), and General Andrew Lewis commanding the Virginia force. Augusta County's Militia Companies were commanded by Captains John Bell, Anthony Bledsoe, John Gilmore, William Leftwich, Alexander Long, William Lowther, George Moffatt, William Nalle, and John Vanbeaver. Colonel Lewis collected his men at Camp Union on the Great Levels of the Greenbrier during late September and early October 1774, and he then marched them to Point Pleasant, arriving on 6 October. On Monday, 10 October, Cornstalk attacked the Virginians. After a daylong battle, in which about a hundred of Lewis's men (87 to 160) were killed or wounded, the Indians were defeated. Lord Dunmore with the second force did not reach the battlefield, stopping instead at Fort Gower.

For the next year about 75 of the organized companies of frontier militia remained on scouting and patrol duty. Colonel Andrew Lewis was Commander in Chief of the Southern Division, with Colonel Charles Lewis of Albemarle County, commanding

the Augusta Regiment Companies, assisted by Major John Field. Captains John Dickenson, Benjamin Harrison, Samuel Wilson, John Lewis (son of Thomas Lewis), Andrew Lockridge, and John Lewis (son of Andrew Lewis) commanded the companies.

In general, volunteer regulars of the Continental army and requisitioned militia forces fought the American Revolution. About 164,087 or approximately 41% of the 395,864 troops employed in the formal campaigns were militiamen.

The 2d Virginia Regiment, under Colonel William Woodford, was reconstituted on 17 July 1775 in the State Line. That October it was organized at Williamsburg, and on 15 February 1776 it was transferred to the Continental Army. The Augusta County Regiment had furnished four companies to it, with the remainder of the companies of the Augusta County Regiment guarding the frontier of Virginia. During the period 1776-1781 elements of the Augusta County Regiment (other than those in the 2d Virginia Regiment, Continental Line) were ordered into active military service at various times. On 16 October 1777 the Augusta County Regiment was reorganized into three battalions.

After the 2d Virginia Regiment was taken into the pay of the Continental Congress in March 1776, it assisted in the campaign around Norfolk. It departed in December 1776 to join the main army under Washington. But on 10 February 1777 the Continental Board of War ordered the regiment to Maryland's Eastern Shore to suppress local "insurgents."

The Augusta Court Martial Record Book alone shows as many as 38 companies active at a given period, in addition to those then in the Continental Army. We have a record of three companies of Militia raised in Augusta County present at the Battle at Guilford Court House, North Carolina, on 15 March 1781, under Major General Nathanael Greene. These were commanded by Captains John Smith, David Gwin, and James Tate. They fired and withdrew according to plan and then kept running, leaving the regulars pinned down and forced to face the enemy unsupported.

The 2d Virginia earned Campaign Streamers for the 116th Infantry to bear today, for: Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Yorktown, Virginia 1775, South Carolina 1780 and South Carolina 1781. The 1st Virginia, from the eastern part of the state, earned all of those but Yorktown and South Carolina 1781, plus Long Island, Trenton and Princeton. On 1 January 1783

the 2d Virginia Regiment, Continental Line, was formally disbanded.

About two years later, in 1785, the Augusta County Regiment was reorganized into a two-battalion regiment; and on 31 December 1792 it was expanded to form the 32d and 93rd Regiments, 7th Brigade, Virginia Militia.

Among the Virginia Volunteer Militia ordered out to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 was Major George Lewis' Squadron of Virginia Horse, which numbered among its eight troops Captain Robert Gratton's Troop of Horse from Staunton. They were in Federal service 24 September to 2 December.

During the War of 1812 elements of the 32d and 93rd Regiments were in active military service for periods of two to six months, on four occasions for the 32d and on three for the 93rd. This service won our Regiment a Campaign Streamer for Maryland 1814. Companies of the eastern regiment were also in Federal service for two short periods, but did not earn a Streamer.

The national militia during the period between the Revolution and the Civil War was the subject of much controversy and ridicule. However, John Palmer, an English traveller, published in London during 1818 his *Journal of Travels in the United States of North America and in Lower Canada Performed in the Year 1817*, in which, moving on during August to western Virginia, he noted seeing "...several militia musters of the inhabitants and though they did not go through their exercise equal to regulars, or regular militia, they were not that awkward set of clowns I have seen represented. Every person of proper age is, by law, a militia man, and called out to drill four days in the year; he is also required to keep a rifle, or musket, and proper accoutrements in the house . . ."

About 1833 the Augusta Militia Regiments were reorganized into the 32d, 93rd and 160th Regiments, Virginia Militia.

For the Mexican War, the 1st Regiment from eastern Virginia, was mustered into Federal service and served in Mexico, earning the Campaign Streamer: Mexican War. On 6 January 1847 an Augusta Company was formed from elements of the 32d and 160th Regiments, and mustered into Federal service at Richmond as Captain Kenton Harper's Light Infantry Company (also known as Augusta Volunteers), 1st Regiment Virginia Volunteers. It was mustered out at Fort Monroe, Virginia 27 July 1848, not having earned a Campaign Streamer.

During the second quarter of the nineteenth century Virginia was one of the few states which maintained a viable militia organization; but it was largely a paper one which had become moribund by the mid-1850s. Only the Volunteer Militia units were left to shoulder the burden of public defense.

In 1858-1859 annual musters were again required and enforced and the line militia brought back to life. This was brought about by the ever-widening chasm in public feeling between the southern and northern sections of our country, heightened by open warfare in the Kansas Territory and particularly for Virginia by John Brown's attempt to promote a slave uprising by seizing Harper's Ferry in 1859.

In late 1858 the Virginia Militia was organized into over 179 regiments of the line, each of two 4-company battalions plus attached Volunteer companies: one troop of cavalry, one company of artillery and two companies of light infantry or riflemen. In late 1860 Virginia had commissioned 92 troops of cavalry, 26 companies of artillery, 111 companies of light infantry, and 113 companies of riflemen. These included those Volunteer companies organized into three regiments and four battalions.

The Augusta County Militia Regiments were authorized on 27 March 1861 to organize as the 5th Virginia Regiment of Volunteers. Virginia seceded from the Union on 17 April, and was admitted to the Confederate States of America on 7 May. On the latter date the 5th Regiment Virginia Infantry, under Colonel Kenton Harper, was organized in State service, and on 30 June was accepted into Confederate States service to include the following Augusta Militia Companies: C. Mountain Guards, D. Southern Guards, E. Augusta Grays, F. West View Infantry, G. Staunton Rifles, H. Augusta Rifles, I. Ready Rifles of Augusta County, L. Augusta Artillery as Augusta Guards. The 5th Regiment, along with the 2d, 4th, 27th and 33rd, became part of the 1st Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah, Confederate States Army, Brigadier General Thomas J. Jackson commanding. On the field of First Manassas the Brigade won for itself and commander the historic name of Stonewall. (In the 5th, Co. A was the Marion Rifles, Co. B the Rockbridge Rifles, and Co. K the Morgan Continental Guards.)

The Augusta Lee Rifles, also called Lee Rifles, became Company C, afterward D, of the 25th Virginia Infantry. The Churchville Cavalry became Company I, 14th Virginia Cavalry. The

Imboden Battery, also called Staunton Artillery, was under Captain John D. Imboden, who later as a Brigadier General commanded the Valley District, a brigade in the District, and finally a cavalry brigade.

The 1st Virginia Cavalry Regiment was formed in the spring of 1861 around the nucleus of several cavalry companies from the Valley, under Major J.E.B. Stuart. He was appointed Colonel of the complete ten-company regiment, enlisted for Confederate States service for one year. On 22 April 1862 it was reorganized for the duration.

Elements of the 32d, 93rd and 160th Regiments were assigned on 19 August 1861 to the 52d Regiment, Virginia Infantry, under Colonel John B. Baldwin, former Colonel of the 160th Regiment, Virginia Militia, and organized in State service. Nearly nine months later, on 1 May 1862, they were accepted into Confederate States service. On 9 April 1865 the 5th and 52d Regiments surrendered at Appomattox and were paroled, after earning eighteen Campaign Streamers for the Civil War (Confederate Service): First Manassas, Valley, Peninsula, Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Shenandoah, Petersburg, Appomattox, Virginia 1861, Virginia 1862, Virginia 1863, Maryland 1864. The eastern regiment earned nine of those, plus North Carolina 1864.

Elements of the 5th and 52d Regiments were reconstituted on 1 May 1871 as separate volunteer companies in western Virginia. During May and June, ten years later in 1886, they were reorganized as the 2d and 3rd Infantry Regiments, Virginia Volunteers. During the Spanish American War these regiments were mustered into Federal service at Richmond, 11-26 May 1898, as the 2d and 3rd Virginia Volunteers, but did not serve outside the continental United States. On 5 November the 3rd Virginia Volunteers was mustered out of Federal service, and 13-20 December the 2d followed. On 29 April 1899 the regiments were disbanded, with no Virginia unit receiving a Campaign Streamer for War with Spain.

Elements of the former 2d and 3rd Infantry Regiments were reorganized 10 October 1900, and assigned to the 70th Infantry, Virginia Volunteers. 26 August 1905 other elements of the former 2d and 3rd Infantry Regiments were reorganized and assigned to the 72d Infantry, Virginia Volunteers. The 70th and 72d Infantry Regiments, Virginia Volunteers, were redesignated on

1 September 1908 as the 1st and 2d Infantry Regiments, Virginia Volunteers. Then on 3 June 1916 the Virginia Volunteers were redesignated as the Virginia National Guard, and on 30 June the 1st and 2d Infantry Regiments, Virginia National Guard, were mustered into Federal service at Camp Stuart, Virginia for service on the Mexican Border.

The 1st Infantry was mustered out 16 January 1917 at Richmond, followed by the 2d on 28 February. But not for long! The 2d was again mustered into Federal service 25 March-3 April, and the 1st 25 July-4 August 1917. On the 5th they were drafted into Federal service for World War I. The 1st, 2d and 4th Infantry Regiments, Virginia National Guard, on 4 October 1917 were consolidated, reorganized and redesignated as the 116th Infantry and assigned to the 29th Division. In combat in France they earned Campaign Streamers for Meuse-Argonne, and Alsace 1918, as did the eastern regiment. On 30 May 1919 they were relieved from the 29th Division and demobilized at Camp Lee, Virginia.

The regiment was reorganized in western Virginia on 12 October 1921 as the 2d Infantry, Virginia National Guard. The following 9 March 1922 it was redesignated as the 116th Infantry, and on 3 April was Federally recognized with Headquarters at Staunton. The next year, 31 July 1923 it was assigned to the 29th Division, later designated as the 29th Infantry Division. Ten years later, 26 June 1933, the Regimental Headquarters was relocated to Lynchburg.

During 1940 and 1941 the National Guard was mobilized in anticipation of our involvement with World War II, and the 116th was inducted into Federal service 3 February 1941 at their home stations. During World War II it earned Battle Streamers for: Normandy (with arrowhead), Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. The 116th Infantry was decorated with the Presidential Unit Citation, NORMANDY, and its 1st Battalion also received the Presidential Unit Citation, VIRE. The French Croix de Guerre with Palm, BEACHES of NORMANDY, was awarded to the entire 29th Division; and with Gold Star, VIRE, also to the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry. On 6 January 1946 the Regiment was inactivated at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

Several years later, 24 March 1948, the Regiment was reorganized and Federally recognized with Headquarters at Staunton again. But after eleven years, with a new concept of combat organization, on 1 June 1959 the Regiment was relieved from the

29th Infantry Division and reorganized as the 116th Infantry, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System — CARS.

Augusta County Obituaries, 1855

By Anne Covington Kidd
(Continued from Volume 17, Number 2)

Hartford, August 5, 1855.—Two promising lads, aged about thirteen years, sons of J. C. ANDREWS and the late Rev. Joseph TYLER, formerly of Staunton, were drowned in the river in this city on Saturday afternoon. (RV 11 August 1855)

On the 15th inst., at the residence of C. C. Baldwin, in Rockbridge county . . . Mr. Cyrus B. BALDWIN, some forty years ago a citizen of this place, but recently of Cincinnati, Ohio, aged seventy-three years . . . member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. (29 August 1855)

Mr. John BARRY, an Irishman, was killed on Friday last, by falling from a cart while hauling manure from town to the farm of Capt. J. A. Harman . . . leaves a small family. (RV 15 December 1855)

In Middlebrook, on wednesday 16th, inst. . . George BAYLOR, age about 45 years. (RV 26 May 1855)

On the 16th inst., at his residence near Churchville, Augusta county, the Rev. Jacob BEAR, in his 46th year . . . born in Maryland, but was a resident of Virginia for several years. (RV 27 January 1855)

On the Long Glade, Augusta county, on Sunday the 17th ult., Mr. Thomas BELL, in the 82d year of his age. (10 January 1855)

At his residence (Oakland) in this county on the 3d inst., Mr. Samuel BLACKBURN, aged 70 years. (25 April 1855)

Charles BRAWFORD, Esq. died . . . in Greenville, on Saturday last . . . leaving a widow. (27 June 1855)

. . . Jno. B. BRECKENRIDGE, Esq. . . . died at his residence in this place on Friday . . . the 7th inst. . . . husband, father . . . remains interred in Thornrose Cemetery on Sunday last, followed . . . by . . . Odd Fellows and Masons . . . sermon preached in the Episcopal Church by Rev. T. T. Castleman . . . born in Staunton on the 21st of November, 1799 . . . served for many

years as a Justice of the Peace . . . Treasurer of the Western Lunatic Asylum. Tributes of Respect. . . . Board of Directors of Western Lunatic Asylum . . . Sam'l Clarke, president; Wm. H. Watts, clerk; John A. Harman, Wm. A. Abney, J. H. Skinner, Sam'l. M. Yost. Staunton Lodge No. 45, I. O. O. F. . . . Bros. N. K. Trout, R. P. Kinney, E. M. Taylor, A. M. Simpson, and M. R. McCue. (RV 15 December 1855) Staunton Lodge No. 13 . . . at Masonic Hall . . . Bros. T. J. Michie, L. L. Stevenson, R. H. Phillips, J. W. Hudson, and H. M. Bell . . . committee. (RV 22 December 1855)

Departed this life on the 20th inst. . . . at the residence of Maj. J. M. McCue, near Mt. Solon, Va., Miss Lucinda E. S. BRODT, of Binghampton, New York, in the 19th year of her age. (29 August 1855) . . . on the 30th inst. (RV 1 September 1855)

In this place, on the 14th inst., Mrs. Livinia BRYAN, aged about 45 years. (RV 17 November 1855)

On Thursday morning the 4th inst., at his residence, Mr. Thomas CALBREATH, Sr. aged 88 years . . . ruling Elder of the Presbyterian Church. (RV 22 December 1855)

On Sabbath last, Homer Clarence (CEASE), son of H. R. & Fannie V. Cease. (RV 29 September 1855)

Near New Hope, in this County, on the 2d inst. . . . Christian CLARK, in the 14th year of his age. (RV 24 February 1855)

On the 8th inst., at the residence of her father, Mr. Thomas Clayton, near Deerfield, Miss Irene CLAYTON — aged 17 years 4 months. (29 August 1855)

On Saturday morning last, near Mt. Sidney . . . Mr. Abraham COFFMAN, aged 38 years. (RV 29 September 1855)

About 5 miles South of Harrisonburg, on Saturday morning last . . . Mrs. Eve COFFMAN, wife of Mr. Samuel Coffman, of this county, aged 71 years, 10 months and 19 days. (RV 26 May 1855)

At his residence, near New Hope, on Saturday night the 10th ult. . . . Mr. John COFFMAN, in the 53d year of his age . . . member of the Tunkard Church . . . As a husband, father . . . he preserved unsullied the vocation with which he was called. (7 March 1855)

On the 14th inst., at the residence of Mr. Jacob S. Brown, St. Louis county, Mo., Mr. Wm. COWAN, aged about 53 years, a native of Staunton. (RV 29 September 1855)

On the 17th inst., Franklin McCue (CRAIG), infant son of May B. and Martha G. Craig, aged 6 months. (1 August 1855) On the 17th ult. (RV 4 August 1855)

On the 7th inst., at her residence in Augusta county, Mrs. Margaret CRAIG, wife of Robert Craig connected herself with the Presbyterian Church of Lebanon. (22 August 1855)

At the residence of her son, Wm. Craig, in this place, on the 1st inst., Mrs. Susannah CRAIG, in the 87th year of her age. (16 May 1855)

... death of ... Col. James CRAWFORD in good health on Thursday, having visited his farm below New Hope Upon his return he complained of acute pain in the region of his heart ... until eleven o'clock at night, and finally died large family for many years a Justice of the Peace ... the Presiding Magistrate of the County Court member of the Staunton Presbyterian Church On Saturday evening his remains were conveyed from his residence in the country to Thornrose Cemetery On the day previous to his death, the remains of his daughter, who died two years ago, had been removed from the "old Church yard" to the Cemetery. (16 May 1855) ... Friday the 11th (RV 12 May 1855) Since the year 1851, death after death has occurred in the family of which Col. Crawford was the honored head A daughter (Susan V.) died on the 4th day of July that year; and upon the same day a beloved grand child (daughter of Mr. T. C. Burwell) was made ready to deposit in the same grave Mrs. Margaret A. Burwell ... departed this life May 24th, 1854. In November of the same year, another of Mr. Burwell's family (S. Virginia) died at the residence of Col. Crawford ... age ... about three years early in May, 1855, another grand child, (Jas. Churchman) ... was suddenly stricken down the revered father and grandfather was ... removed on the morning of the 11th ... (May) a practicing lawyer for many of the earliest years of his public life admirably fitted him for the magistracy ... he exercised during twenty years chosen the presiding officer upon the bench of magistrates resided on a well cultivated farm, a few miles in the country. (4 July 1855)

In this place on the 11th inst. John Hampton (CRAWFORD), eldest child of Hugh J. and Caroline S. Crawford, aged about 12 years. (RV 14 July 1855)

On Thursday morning last, the 18th inst. Mrs. Nancy CRAWFORD, widow of the late Wm. Crawford, of this county. (RV 27 January 1855)

Near Greenville, George CROBARGER, sr., at an advanced age. (3 January 1855)

At the residence of her father, Mr. Dan'l Croft, on Lewis Creek, on the 25th ult., Miss Catharine CROFT, in the 20th year of her age. (RV 15 December 1855)

In this place on Thursday night last Miss Eliza DAVIS in the twentieth year of her age. (RV 20 October 1855)

In this place on the 31st ult., Louisa (DUPUY), daughter of M. and L. Dupuy aged 2 years. (7 February 1855) daughter of A. and L. Dupuy. (RV 3 February 1855)

Near New Hope, on Tuesday evening the 6th ult. Mr. James FARISH, in the 65th year of his age. (7 March 1855) ... member of the Baptist Church. (RV 3 March 1855)

Mr. FAUBER, living on Middle River, was drowned on Monday Morning last about 45 years of age. (RV 14 July 1855)

On Wednesday last at the residence of Mr. Robert Cowan, Ida Howard FORBES, daughter of Dr. James Forbes, of Nelson, aged about 8 years. (22 August 1855) ... Ida Howard FORBER, daughter of Dr. James Forber. (RV 18 August 1855)

Departed this life August 19th, in the 24th year of her age, Sarah Jane (GAMBLE), daughter of Philander Gamble, Esq. (12 September 1855)

In Charlottesville, on Friday last ... Dr. John B. GARRETT, formerly of this place. (1 August 1855)

A few days past in ... Montgomery, Alabama, Elizabeth Lewis (GILMER) native of Shenandoah Valley, and had lived beyond ninety years a granddaughter of John Lewis, the first settler on the head-waters of the Shenandoah River, the daughter of Thomas Lewis, the Provincial Surveyor of Augusta county, and the wife of Thomas Gilmer, a pioneer of the Virginia emigrants to the State of Georgia ... mother of twelve children, eight of whom are now living she removed from the Shenandoah Valley when a young mother The marriage of her son, Gov. Gilmer, of Georgia, with the daughter of Maj. Grattan, of Rockingham county, furnished her with a means of ... communication with the friends of her youth. (19 September 1855)

At the residence of Mr. Robert J. Glendy, Deerfield, on Friday morning the 5th ult., Miss Elenor GLENDY, in the ninety-first year of her age . . . born in the County Derry, (Ireland) and emigrated to America in 1804 . . . member of the Presbyterian Church for more than half a century. (21 February 1855)

Mrs. Mary GROVE, wife of Samuel Grove, Esq., was born near . . . Greenville, in Augusta county . . . in . . . 1797 — was married in 1818 — joined the Presbyterian Church at Bethel the year following, and emigrated to Howard county, Missouri, in 1825 — three years after to Saline, where she died on the 6th of June, 1854 — being one of the first settlers of that . . . County . . . Husband . . . daughters . . . Sons on the Pacific Shore. *Glasgow Times.* (18 April 1855)

At her residence in Staunton, on the 21st ult., Miss Catherine HARRUFF, in the 70th year of her age . . . native of . . . Pennsylvania, of German parentage . . . member of the Presbyterian Church. (11 July 1855) . . . Mrs. Catharine HAROUFF. (RV 30 June 1855)

In Callaway county, Missouri, Sunday evening, 2nd instant, at the residence of her son-in-law, Col. Isaac Tate . . . Mrs. Margaret HENDERSON, relict of Daniel Henderson, dec'd., aged eighty-four years, eight months and twenty-eight days . . . native of Augusta county Va., and sister to the late Captain Samuel Steele, of Augusta . . . resided in Augusta county until . . . 1823, when with her husband and family removed to Missouri. (19 September 1855)

. . . at his residence near Milboro', Bath county, Va., Mr. Rodney D. HENDERSON, in the 34th year of his age — formerly of this county. (28 March 1855)

On the 22d of March . . . in the 44th year of his age, at his residence in Augusta county, near Deerfield, Mr. George S. HODGE, leaving . . . wife and ten . . . children . . . for several years a . . . member of the M. E. Church, and . . . of the Sons of Temperance. (16 May 1855)

At his residence at Parnassus, Augusta county, on Tuesday morning last, David HOGSHEAD, Esq., aged about 42 years. (21 February 1855)

In Brock's Gap, on Friday night last, July 13th . . . Miss Sarah HOLVET/HULVET? in the 16th year of her age. (RV 21 July 1855)

On Monday, the 25th ult., Mr. Christian HOOVER and Mr. David GOEN were drowned in North River, near Bridgewater, Rockingham county . . . Mr. Hoover formerly resided in this county, and was the father-in-law of Mr. Michael Yessler . . . emigrated to this State from the vicinity of Chambersburg, Pa., where he now has relations residing. (4 July 1855)

At the residence of his father, A. F. Humphries, on the 24th of February . . . Franklin HUMPHRIES, aged about twenty years. (11 April 1855)

In this place on the 21st ult., Edward (JOHNSON), eldest child of Samuel Johnson, aged 3 years, 4 months and 21 days. (4 July 1855)

Departed this life on Monday the 11th ult., Maria Breckinridge (JOHNSON), only daughter of William B. and Margaret S. Johnson, aged seven years. (4 July 1855)

Thomas P. JONES, aged about 27 years . . . on the 24th February . . . at the residence of his brother in law, Peter Campbell, Esq. Cho-w county, Mississippi . . . had been a citizen of Alleghany county, Va., where most of his surviving relations reside. For more than three years . . . attendant in the Western Lunatic Asylum . . . married a young lady of most respectable connections of Staunton, and removed with his bride to Mississippi in the autumn of 1853. (25 April 1855)

Departed this life, on the 23d of March . . . at her residence near Waynesboro' . . . Mrs. Margaret E. E. KEISER, wife of Jacob Keiser, aged 32 years 6 months, leaving a husband and two children . . . member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. (11 April 1855)

On Thursday morning last Mrs. KELLER, wife of Mr. George Keller, of this county, lost her life, on the public road leading to Churchville . . . Mr. Keller and his wife had started to come to town, he walking, and she on horseback . . . Mrs. K. stopped at the house of Mr. Deffenbaugh some four or five miles from Staunton to light her pipe, while Mr. K. walked on . . . a spark . . . from the pipe, it is supposed, ignited her dress, and the wind soon raised a flame . . . She died in about five minutes. (20 June 1855)

In this place at the residence of Mrs. Lancaster on the 28th ult. . . Mr. Peter KERWIN; aged about 25 years . . . native of Ireland; and a shoemaker. (RV 15 September 1855)

At his residence near Deerfield, on Thursday evening the 12th inst., Mr. Morgan KINCAID, in the forty-first year of his

age left ... wife, nine small children member of the Methodist Church. (25 July 1855)

Near Tinkling Spring Church, on Thursday the 21st, Alex H. KINDIG, aged 7 years, 10 months and 15 days. (RV 30 June 1855)

At his residence near Greenville, on the 30th ultimo, Sam'l LIGHTNER, sr., in the 67th year of his age. (3 January 1855) Sam'l LIGHTLER. (RV 13 January 1855)

At his residence, near New Hope ... Mr. Jacob LONG, at an advanced age leaves a wife and several small children. (7 March 1855)

On Tuesday morning, the 13th inst., Mrs. Susan MANN, wife of Henry Mann, aged about 24 years, near Staunton. (RV 17 March 1855)

In this place, on the 23rd inst., Mr. Matthew W. MAURY, aged about 83 years. (RV 25 August 1855)

A young man named James MAYSE ... died in West View on Friday. (14 March 1855)

... at the Woodward House, in this place, on Saturday night last, Miss Mary W. McCLANAHAN, aged about 21 years. (3 October 1855)

... a native of this county: John N. McCUTCHEON was drowned in the San Bernard river, in Texas, on the 10th of May last had joined the Sons of Temperance at Middlebrook, Va. (11 July 1855)

On Tuesday morning last, Charles McGUFFIN, of this place. (1 August 1855) Preamble and Resolutions. I. O. O. F. Staunton Lodge, No. 45. (8 August 1855) employed in the Virginia Hotel a married man, and in life was visited upon him no little of the affliction and pain to which man is heir. Severed from the partner of his bosom ... he left his business and home in his native county, Highland, that he might be near her here to soothe her ... in the seasons ... of dethroned reason (member) order of Odd Fellows leaves a wife and four children aged about forty years. (RV 4 August 1855)

... in Montgomery, Alabama, on the 28th of September, Reuben A. McNUT ... native of this county, and for a long time conducted a flourishing school in Lexington. (17 October 1855) ... native of Rockbridge. (RV 13 October 1855)

... on the 20th of November, at the residence of his father in Augusta co., Mr. Wm, G. MOFFETT, in the 21st year of his age. (RV 15 December 1855)

At his residence in this county, on the 29th ult. ... Rudolph MOYERS, in the 61st year of his age. (9 May 1855) Rudolph MYERS. (RV 5 May 1855)

At the residence of his son, Joseph Neher, in Ross township, Clinton county, Indiana, on the 19th ult., Mr. Henry NEHER, formerly of Augusta county ... aged 81 years, 10 months and 26 days. (RV 15 September 1855)

At his residence, in Knoxville, Tennessee, on the 4th ult., Mr. Jacob NEWMAN, in the 53d year of his age native of Shenandoah county, Va., and resided at different periods in Harrisonburg and in Staunton In ... 1838 he removed to Knoxville leaves ... large ... family remains interred in Gray Cemetery on the evening of the 6th ult. with Masonic honors. (9 May 1855)

At Mr. Yarbrough's in New Hope, on Saturday evening, the 30th of December, 1854 ... Mr. Wm. OVERHOALT, in the 53d year of his age. (17 January 1855) ... a short time before his death, in company with his wife, visited the family of his Father-in-law During his stay there he was ... cut down. (RV 13 January 1855)

In the vicinity of Waynesboro, on Sunday evening the 7th inst. ... Mr. Reuben OVERHOLT, in the 46th year of his age For the last ten years ... lived in the neighborhood six days before his death, it was made his melancholy duty, to follow the remains of his only brother in the country, to their last resting place. (RV 20 January 1855)

At his residence on South River, on the — inst., Mr. Charles PATRICK. (14 March 1855) ... near Waynesborough ... on the morning of the 27th ult., Mr. Chas. PATRICK, in the 78th year of his age for nearly forty years an elder of the Presbyterian church, formerly of Tinkling Spring and latterly of Waynesboro' All his children who were at home were gathered around his bed. (RV 31 March 1855)

On the 27th April at his residence on South River ... M. George Taliaferro PATERSON, in the 27th year of his age, and third son of the late ... Jno. A. Patterson, Ezq., of the same place. (9 May 1855)

At the residence of her father, near Deerfield, on Tuesday the 26th of December, 1854 ... Miss Mary A. C. PAULY, eldest daughter of Mr. Lewis Pauly, in the 26th year of her age. (21 February 1855)

In this place, on the 26th inst., Sarah Brownell (PEACO), daughter of David Peaco, aged 2 years, 9 months and 16 days. (RV 30 June 1855)

On the 18th inst., Eugene (PIPER), infant son of James A. and Ann E. Piper, and on the 19th the youngest daughter (— PIPER) of J. A. and A. E. Piper, of this place. (25 July 1855) In this place, on the 17th ... Ida Marks (PIPER), second daughter of James A. and Ann E. Piper, aged about two years. In this place, on the 19th, Eugene (PIPER) ... aged about two months. (RV 21 July 1855)

Mr. PITMAN, an old gentleman residing with John M. Pitman, near Fishersville, on Friday morning last, was killed by the Railroad Engine. (RV 22 September 1855)

On Monday night last, in this place, Mr. David PITMAN leaves a widow and five or six ... children. (14 March 1855) ... Mr. David A. PITMAN leaves a widow and four ... children. (RV 17 March 1855)

At his residence, in this County, about three miles from Staunton, on Friday last, 28 September, Maj. William POAGE, at an advanced age. (3 October 1855)

On Sabbath morning last, Mr. George W. PRICE of this place, was thrown from his horse, near the residence of Mr. John White, on the Greenville road, and ... died in about thirty minutes was twenty-two years of age, a Tobacconist by trade, and lived with his brother-in-law, Mr. John B. Evans. (16 May 1855) ... recently from Winchester, aged about 23 years, and in employ of his brother-in-law, Mr. John B. Evans, Tobacconist has two married sisters living in this place remains were deposited in Thornrose Cemetery. (RV 19 May 1855)

On the 11th inst., Mr. Hector B. ROGERS, formerly a resident of this county, but recently repaired to the county of Botetourt for the purpose of teaching born the 7th day of March, 1830, and died the 11th day of February, 1855. (21 February 1855)

On Friday night the 9th inst. at her residence near Hermitage in this County, Mrs. Elizabeth ROSS, aged 66, years 6 months and 2 days member of the Ger. Reformed Church. (RV 24 February 1855)

On Monday the 19th inst., Miss Eliza D. RUFF, daughter of Mr. Jacob Ruff, of this county. (28 March 1855)

Near Phillipa, Barbour county ... on the 7th inst. ... Sarah Jane (RUSMISEL), oldest daughter of Peter and Lucinda Rusmisel, formerly of Parnassus, Augusta county ... aged 6 years, 5 months and 19 days. (17 October 1855)

In this place, on the 1st inst. ... Amelia (SCHMITT), third daughter of Matthias Schmitt, aged about 8 years. (4 August 1855)

A Mr. SCOTT, a German by birth, in the employ of J. B. Breckenridge, Esq., as a farm hand, fell from a wagon on the 21st. (RV 26 May 1855)

At the residence of his father-in-law, Mr. Henry Dinkle, on the 16th ult., Mr. David SHAVER, aged about 32 years. (8 August 1855)

In this place on Thursday, Mrs. Frances SHEETS. (22 August 1855)

Near Mount Sidney, on Sunday evening, the 11th instant, Mr. Kirtley F. SHIFLET ... aged about 35 years. (21 February 1855)

On the 4th of October, in Memphis, Tennessee ... Cornelias SHOTT, — aged 22 years, formerly of Augusta county. (31 October 1855)

On the 10th of February ... at her Grandfather Dinkle, on Mossy Creek, Elizabeth Mary (SILLING), infant daughter of Oliver H. P. and Rebecca Silling, and Grand daughter of Wm. Silling, jr., near Parnassus, aged three years, nine months and three days. (RV 17 February 1855)

In this county on the 30th ult. ... Mr. Oliver H. P. SILLING, son of Wm. Sillings, aged 29 years, 10 months and 19 days leaves a young wife and two children. (RV 6 January 1855)

In this place, on Tuesday last, Mrs. Elizabeth SLONAKER, wife of Mr. Burkhart Slonaker. (25 July 1855) ... on the 17th ... aged about 45 years. (RV 21 July 1855)

In this place, on the 2nd inst., Alice R. (SMITH), daughter of Wm. R. Smith, aged about 5 years. (RV 7 July 1855)

In this city, on Tuesday evening last ... Mr. Jasper SNYDER, aged 66 years native of Augusta county ... but came west at an early day and settled at Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio, and removed from that place to this city, less than two years ago member of the Methodist Church for the last twenty years. *Burlington (Iowa) Gazette*, January 25. (14 February 1855)

In Palmyra, Missouri, on the 15th inst. . . . Mary Kate (SOSEY), daughter of Jacob and Mary Ann Sosey, formerly of this place, aged about six years and seven months. (12 September 1855)

On the 1st inst. . . . Martha Ann (SOTHARDS), infant child of James Sothards, aged two months. (RV 4 August 1855)

On the 13th inst. a gentleman arrived at the American Hotel in this place . . . S. J. STOWELL, New York city . . . Friday night last . . . he died . . . presumed that he was a minister of the Episcopal Church, and also that his home was in Bermuda . . . funeral services on Saturday were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Castleman. (29 August 1855) . . . from the Virginia Springs . . . S. J. STOWE, or STOWELL . . . medical aid rendered him by Dr. T. A. Berkely . . . died on Friday the 24th ult. . . . letter from his niece, who resides in Bermuda . . . seemed to be about 55 years of age. (RV 1 September 1855)

In this place, on the 8th inst. . . . Hester Helen (THOMAS), infant daughter of R. B. and Mary A. Thomas, aged 10 months and 21 days. (25 July 1855)

On the 16th inst., Mr. Daniel H. TRAYER . . . aged about 45 years. (22 August 1855) . . . Mr. Ham TRAYER (RV 18 August 1855)

Hartford, August 5, 1855 . . . aged about thirteen years . . . (son) of . . . the late Rev. Joseph Tyler, formerly of Staunton, (— TYLER) . . . drowned in the river in this city on Saturday afternoon. (RV 11 August 1855)

On Monday evening last . . . Dr. Addison WADDELL, long known as a physician and citizen of Staunton. (20 June 1855) . . . on the night of the 18th inst. . . . in the 70th year of his age . . . had been a practicing physician in this community for about 46 years . . . Presbyterian Elder. (27 June 1844) . . . wife . . . son, Dr. Alex. Waddell . . . remains conveyed to the Presbyterian Church . . . on Wednesday last, where appropriate . . . remarks were made by Revs. Dr. McFarland and Wilson; and then taken to Thornrose Cemetery. (RV 23 June 1855)

At Logan, Albemarle county, at the residence of Capt. M. L. Walker, on the 15th inst., in the 28th year of her age, Maria R. (WALKER), wife of R. Lindsay Walker, Esq., and daughter of William S. Eskridge, Esq., late of Staunton. (RV 29 September 1855)

At Huntersville, Missouri, on the 13th of November, Mrs. Mary M. WESTERN, consort of Thomas Western, formerly of

New Hope, Augusta county, aged 23 years. (RV 15 December 1855)

On Wednesday the 1st inst. . . . Mrs. Haret WIGANT, wife of Mr. Martin Wigant, of this place, aged 54 years . . . member of the Presbyterian Church. (8 August 1855)

On Saturday the 14th inst., at the residence of his brother, Michael Wise, on Jackson's River, Mr. Henry WISE, of Uniontown, Pa., and formerly of this place . . . son of Mr. John Wise, dec'd, of Staunton . . . was 48 years of age. (25 July 1855)

On the 30th ult., near Spring Hill, Miss Mary Magdalene WONDERLICK, aged 17 years, 11 months. (RV 7 July 1855)

MERCERSVILLE

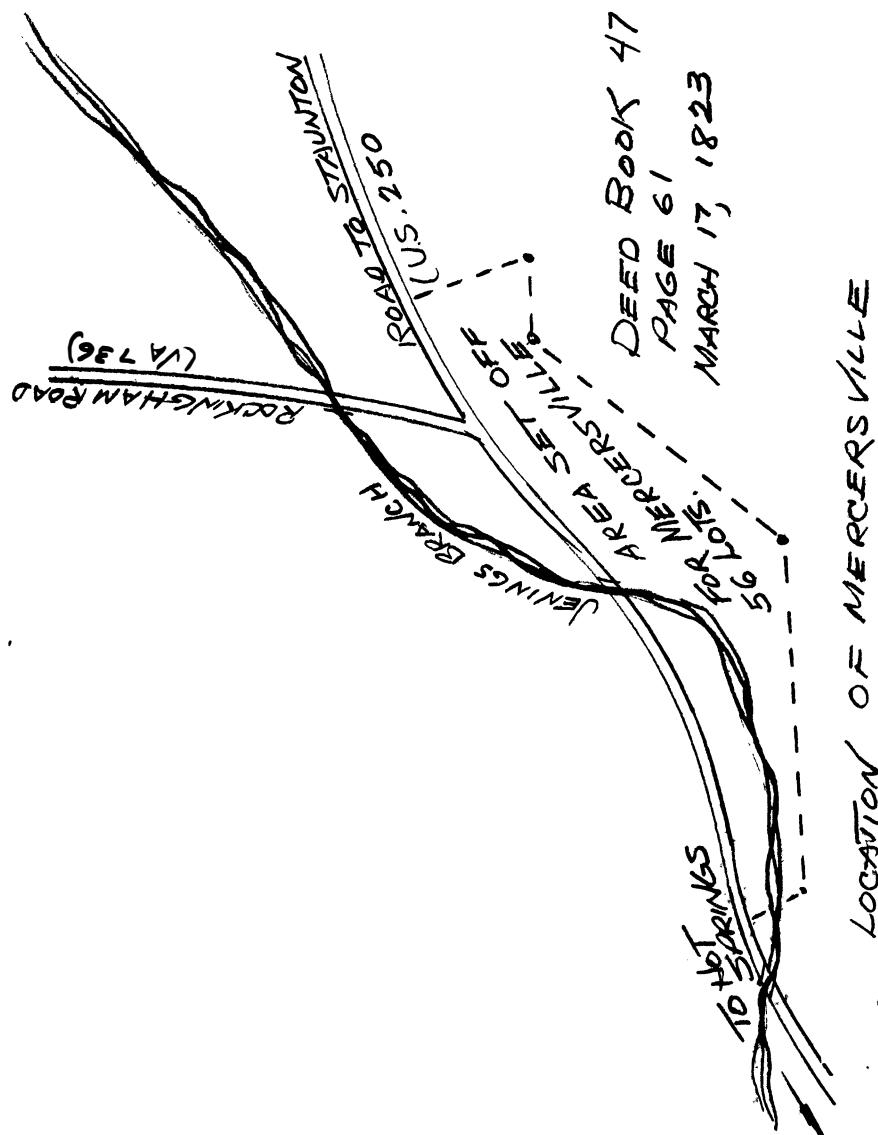
By Katherine Gentry Bushman

From 1806 to 1890, a village existed west of Staunton at the beginning of Jennings Gap known as Mercersville in the records of Augusta County.

Laid off as a town of 56 lots in 1806 by Robert McDowell, a merchant of Staunton, it originally had three streets running east and west: Merchant, Fayette and Spring. North and south streets were First, Second, Third, and Fourth. There were three alleys identified in deeds as Back, Branch, and Brown. According to the plat in 1823 (see illustration), the land was located on the south side of Jennings Branch. It was originally owned by Robert McKittrick, the elder, by patent to him in 1772, and was sold by Robert McKittrick, the younger, to Robert McDowell in 1801 (Deed Book 31, page 382). The first deed of 12 November 1806 conveyed Lot #31 on Fayette Street to Jacob Kinney (Deed Book 34, page 19). Between that date and 21 March 1807, thirty-one lots were sold out of the 56 laid off. This was all a part of the 100 acres that was the Robert McKittrick land.

Initial purchasers were Thomas Erwin, Jacob Day, Francis Gilkeson, Samuel Edmond, William Hogshead, Jesse Riley, John McGlamery, Jacob Foreman, Jacob Kinney, Thomas Hogshead, David Hogshead, Jacob Acord, Peter Fultz, Lewis Smith, Charles Hogshead (2), John Nickle, Daniel Fall, John Kirk, William McKemey, Abel Armstrong (3), Thomas Armstrong, Joseph Brown (2), Valentine Miller (2), Henry Knave, John Peters, Henry Swoope, James McKamey. Joseph Daniel, Jr. purchased 2 lots in 1825, and in 1828, William Merritt and William Boys purchased lots. These were all deeds from Robert McDowell and his wife, Patsy. Many names will be recognized as people living in the neighborhood.

The land book of 1819 show new names of Catharine Color, William G. Dudley, and James Garnes. By 1832, owners included Henry Sheetz, Daniel Shirley, Sally Wills, and John Rusmisel. In 1832, the largest number owned by one person were those in the name of James A. Frazier, who had begun purchasing lots in 1828. In 1831 he purchased the 15 unsold lots from Robert McDowell. He had previously bought 11 other lots from James Garnes, Henry Sheets and Charles Hogshead, in addition to the other holdings of Robert McDowell in the immediate area.



By 1884, the land books showed only 14 lots as being the village of Mercersville. Seven lots were still owned by the heirs of James A. Frazier, with others being owned by William Bur-gandine, J. Amanda Brown, John R. Crosby, A. J. Gregory, John Mullen, Henry Swoope, and John M. Taliaferro. By 1890, only John R. Crosby, John Mullen and John M. Taliaferro were listed as owning lots in Mercersville. The 1891 land book has no separate listing of the village of Mercersville.

It is interesting to note that even though the land books list it as Mercersville, the post office in that section was Jennings Gap. Jennings Gap became a post office in 1825 and existed as such beyond 1859.

The only survey showing Mercersville and its environs is the one attached to the deed of 17 March 1823 (Deed Book 47, page 61) conveying to James A. Frazier some 363 acres of land of Robert McDowell, except for the 56 lots comprising Mercersville.

The life of James A. Frazier is closely tied with this community. Coming from Ireland in 1800, he was employed by Robert McDowell as a "store boy" in the business of McDowell's at Jennings Gap. The records show that Mr. Frazier built one of the largest fortunes in the county, while McDowell failed in business.

Today one can drive past the location of Mercersville on U.S. 250 west, which is the beginning of Jennings Gap, and where route 736 goes north towards Stribling Springs. In the 19th century, route 736 was known as the Rockingham road. On the hill to the south of the intersection is the Frazier family cemetery.

Although the county records do not show why it was named Mercersville, a possible answer is the old meaning of the word "mercer" — a merchant. Robert McDowell, creator of the village, was a merchant in both Staunton and the Jennings Gap area.

Known through the 19th and 20th centuries as Jennings Gap, it is only in the land records of Augusta County that you find the name Mercersville.

Sources: Augusta County, Clerk's Office
Deed Books
Survey Books
Land Books
Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Volume 81, #1, January 1973.

"Virginia Post Offices, 1798-1859," by Virginius Cor-nick Hall, Jr. page 71.

Joseph A. Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, 1726-1871* (reprint).

Jos. A. Waddell & Jed. Hotchkiss, *Historical Atlas of Augusta County, Virginia, 1885*, page 85 (map of Pastures District).

THORNROSE CEMETERY AND THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

By
William E. Eisenberg

Thornrose cemetery, a chief treasure of Staunton, and the unveiling of its monument to the Confederate Dead form the substance of the following piece of local history, with a family implication added as a postscript.

In response to a petition from James Points, Francis T. Stribling, Benjamin Crawford, Kenton Harper, Alexander H. H. Stuart, Nicholas C. Kinney, Thomas J. Michie, William Kinney, George M. Cochran, Sr., Jefferson Kinney, John B. Breckenridge, Hugh W. Sheffey, and Nicholas K. Trout, the Legislature of Virginia, on February 24, 1849, granted a charter to Thornrose Cemetery.

To the list of the above thirteen original petitioners, the charter added: "and all such persons as hereafter become owners of lots in the cemetery shall be made a body corporate under the name of Thornrose Cemetery Company."

The first meeting of lot owners was held September 11, 1850. Those present were: A. H. H. Stuart, George M. Cochran, Sr., William Kyle, William Kinney, Judson McCoy, Jefferson Kinney, Benjamin Crawford, N. K. Trout, Rev. Benjamin M. Smith, Rev. Richard H. Phillips, William H. Harman, William W. Donaghe, Hugh J. Crawford, and A. D. Trotter. The Rev. Mr. Smith presided. The Charter was accepted, nine trustees were elected, and a tract of twelve acres was purchased from W. W. Donaghe for the sum of \$1,000.00.

Trustees elected were: George M. Cochran, Sr., A. M. Simp-son, Richard H. Phillips, Hugh J. Crawford, Judson McCoy, John B. Baldwin, Davis A. Kayser, William Kyle, and N. K. Trout.

February 25, 1851, George M. Cochran, Sr., was elected president of the Board, Nicholas K. Trout, secretary, and John B. Baldwin, treasurer.

Of the prominent citizens of the community here mentioned, administrators of government and the legal profession were foremost in representation. A. H. H. Stuart, a member of the United States House of Representatives, was to become President Millard Fillmore's Secretary of the Interior. James Points served as U. S. marshall; N. K. Trout as mayor of the town; William Kinney, Hugh W. Sheffey, and John B. Baldwin were, or were to be, members of the Virginia House of Delegates, the latter two serving as Speakers of the House; Benjamin Crawford, J. B. Breckenridge, and Kenton Harper were justices of the peace, though Mr. Harper is best remembered as publisher of the Staunton Spectator from 1823-1849. Nicholas Kinney, a veteran of the War of 1812, served as the clerk of the Circuit Court, William H. Harman, a veteran of the Mexican War, as commonwealth's attorney, and Jefferson Kinney as clerk of the County Court. George M. Cochran, Sr., likewise was a member of the County Court and a justice of the peace. Thomas J. Michie, lawyer, had come to Staunton in the early 1820's.

Dr. Francis T. Stribling, native Stauntonian, was superintendent of the Western Lunatic Asylum.

The Reverend Benjamin M. Smith was pastor of the Presbyterian Church, 1845-1854. The Reverend Richard H. Phillips, Episcopalian, was assistant principal of Virginia Female Institute (Stuart Hall).

Hugh J. Crawford, Davis A. Kayser, William Kyle, Judson McCoy, A. M. Simpson, and A. D. Trotter were respected citizens held in public esteem. William W. Donaghe was a farm owner on Staunton's western boundary.

The first recorded interment was made March 29, 1853, the burial of a slave belonging to Thomas J. Michie. The interment of Frances Peyton Brown, widow of Judge John Brown (1762-1826), who died May 14, 1851, likewise is said to have been the first interment at Thornrose. It appears to have occurred before records were kept. (See Waddell's Annals of Augusta County, Second Edition, 1902, reprinted 1958, pages 388 and 445.)

A dedication ceremony took place Saturday, May 28, 1853, to which church groups and fraternal orders had been issued special invitations. Masons, Odd Fellows, Sons of Temperance

and citizens with or without church affiliation marched in procession to the cemetery site for prayer. Afterwards they returned to the Methodist Church, where singing was followed by prayer by the Rev. W. B. Browne, of the Augusta Female Seminary, the reading of the Scriptures by the Rev. Mr. Smith, and the address of the occasion by Professor William H. McGuffie, of the University of Virginia and of elementary school textbook fame. Rev. Mr. Phillips brought the dedication to a close by pronouncing a benediction.

Thus, briefly stated, was the chartering, the organizing, and the dedicating of Thornrose. Another decade brought on the anguish and sorrow of the great American tragedy — the Civil War.

Confederate soldiers who died in the service were taken to Thornrose for burial. D. C. McLeweray, 3rd Arkansas Infantry, the first soldier interment, was buried July 9, 1861. He had been killed accidentally "by the cars at the C. and O. depot while his regiment was debarking." Eleven days later A. J. Wall, 20th Virginia Infantry, was buried, the first native son of Virginia to be laid to rest there. All told, the records tell us, there were 1777 dead interred in soldiers' cemetery at Thornrose. The last was James M. Whaley, a sailor from the crew of the CSS Patrick Henry, on March 27, 1887. Men from Staunton and Augusta, who were war's casualties, were customarily buried in their respective family plots. This accounts for the fact that only five local men are numbered among the hundreds of comrades in gray.

Since there were no large military encounters in the immediate area, how does one account for the number of interments?

Women of Augusta and Staunton must be credited for their merciful work. Under the leadership of Mrs. Robert Cowan, funds were collected and expended in gathering together the bodies of the Confederate dead. These were removed from the battlefields where they fell and brought to Staunton for re-interment. This meritorious undertaking led to the formation on June 18, 1870, of the Augusta Memorial Association, with Col. James H. Skinner, president. Its purpose was the continued care of the soldiers' cemetery. Iron posts and chains and grave markers, at a cost of \$3565.00, were erected. And there was a surplus of \$600.00.

Another decade passed in which a desire developed to provide a memorial to honor the fallen. Col. John D. Lilly is credited with suggesting that a monument be erected. He in turn headed a committee, chosen June 9, 1883, and composed of representatives from each of the county's six magisterial districts and from Staunton's two wards, to prosecute the venture. A Ladies' Auxiliary, of which Mrs. M. Erskine Miller was president, was organized also. Needed funds were raised and the contract for the monument was awarded to C. E. Ehmann, Baltimore. The sculptor was Victor Pathia, Correggio, Italy.

The monument is twenty-two feet high from base to top, while the base is an additional eight feet in height. It portrays a Confederate soldier in the position of *parade rest*. Each of the four faces of the monument's shaft has an appropriate inscription. These are:

1. "Honor to the brave. 870 lie here, recorded by name, company and regiment. From Virginia, 305; North Carolina, 176; South Carolina, 59; Georgia, 208; Alabama, 40; Florida, 8; Mississippi, 11; Louisiana, 19; Tennessee, 12; Arkansas, 20; Texas, 3; and 207 recorded by name only." The words "Confederate Dead," are beneath on the sub-base.

2. "As unknown and yet well known. Around this shaft are gathered also the remains of about 700 Confederate soldiers not recorded by name from the fields of Alleghany, McDowell, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Piedmont, etc. Virginia forgets not any who died in her defense."

3. "Weigh not their worth by the balance of battle. These have glorified their cause by the record of noble sacrifice, the simple manhood of their lives, the patient endurance of suffering, and the heroism of death. May such fidelity and patriotism endure forever."

4. "There is a true glory and a true honor; the glory of duty done, the honor of the integrity of principle. — Robert E. Lee."

An enthusiastic crowd approximately 4,000 persons attended the monument's unveiling on Tuesday, September 25, 1888.

Seven bands and ten military and marching units formed the main portion of the parade that moved from downtown over West Beverley street to the cemetery.

Bands in the parade were: Harrisonburg Cornet Band; Charles Town Band; Union Band, New Hope; Augusta Cornet

Band; Spring Hill Cornet Band; Union Band, Winchester; and of course the Stonewall Brigade Band.

Military units were: Society of the Army and Navy of the Confederate States from Maryland; Winchester Light Infantry; Anderson Guards from Woodstock; Harrisonburg Guards; Staunton Male Academy Cadets; Jackson Rifles of Staunton; and Staunton Artillery.

Other marching units were: Hibernian Catholic Beneficial Society, Staunton; Newtown Hose Company; and Confederate Veterans and Sons of Veterans, under command of J. Alex Bumgardner.

Parade marshals were: General Thomas L. Rosser, CSA, chief; Capt. Thomas D. Ranson, chief of staff; A. H. Fultz, J. A. Patterson, W. T. Marr, W. L. Bumgardner, J. A. Cochran, and G. A. Schoppert.

Carriages bore Governor Fitzhugh Lee, General Jubal Early, Col. J. H. Skinner, Col. J. K. Edmondson, Rockbridge, Maj. Jed Hotchkiss, and others, who on arriving at Thornrose, occupied the speakers' stand. Mrs. H. Erskine Miller and Mrs. P. H. Trout, officers of the Ladies' Auxiliary, likewise sat with the honored guests.

The rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, the Rev. Walter Q. Hullihen, offered prayer. Capt. G. Julian Pratt, president of the Memorial Association, presided over the ceremonies and introduced Armistead C. Gordon, who read a poem, *The Garden of Death*, composed by him for the occasion.

Capt. Pratt then introduced Governor Lee, the orator of the day. At this point, at a given signal, the shrouded statue was unveiled. Following the governor's address, the master of ceremonies called upon General Early, General Rosser, and upon Lt. S. T. McCullough, son-in-law of Maj. Hotchkiss, each of whom responded with a brief speech. And thus, the memorable event was concluded.

Miss Carrie Johnston, granddaughter of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, had been chosen to pull the cord that loosed the covering that permitted the statue to stand forth in full view. Miss Johnston's dress was adorned with a large silk badge of royal purple on which "Virginia" was emblazoned in brightest gold. She was attended by twelve young ladies from Staunton's four private schools for girls. Each student wore a wide white silk badge with the name of the Confederate state she represented

printed in blue upon it. The idea was to have a representative from each state from which the fallen soldiers had come.

Augusta Female Seminary had four daughters assisting. They were: Eula Brown, Arkansas; Lucile Foster, Louisiana; Harriet Howard, North Carolina; and Lily Kelly, Missouri. Virginia Female Institute had three: Mary Hale, Virginia; Gena Jones, Alabama; and Maytie Keller, Kentucky. Wesleyan Female Institute likewise had three representatives: Lula Clark, Mississippi; Hannie Frazier, Georgia; and Margaret Turnbull, Florida. Staunton Female Seminary had two: Edna Weeks, South Carolina; and Mary Rodeffer, Maryland.

It will be observed that while the Confederate states of Tennessee and Texas had representation among the "known" bodies interred, these two states had no student representatives. On the other hand the border states of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri each had a student representative, although no "known dead" from these three states are recorded as having been interred. In this connection, also, it may be noted that the precise number of soldiers interred is not known. Addition of the numerals carved on the monument for those known by "name, company and regiment" totals 861, not 870. Add to this the 207 "known by name only" and the figure is 1068. Then add the imprecise number, "about 700," and the result is 1768, not 1777, as stated previously.

And now let me conclude with a family implication in the story.

In the crowd at the cemetery that September day was my father, C. F. W. Eisenberg, a twenty-two year old teacher of music, four years out of the "old Country." He did not attend the event because of recently acquired interest in the Southern cause. He was an eligible bachelor and his eye was set on seeing the young ladies attending Miss Johnston. He taught music both at Augusta Female Seminary and at the Staunton Female Seminary, and one attendant, Mary Rodeffer, was his pupil. As he surveyed the fair maidens on parade that afternoon, he made up his mind and determined then and there to ask Miss Rodeffer to be his wife. This, at a later time, he did, and she accepted.

My mother, daughter of a member of Chew's Battery, Confederate Artillery, was born at Cedarville, Warren County, and reared near Lovettsville in Loudoun. Her testimony as to the reason she qualified as representative of the Old Line state was that she lived within five miles of the Potomac and had to go to

Brunswick, Maryland, to catch the B. and O. train that brought her to Staunton.

Forty-eight years following the monument's dedication, in 1936, a family lot had to be purchased in which to lay my father to rest. After all considerations had been taken into account, it was sentiment that governed the choice of location. The site that was selected was adjacent to the soldiers Cemetery on the north boundary, within the lengthened shadow of the monument to the Confederate Dead.

— William Edward Eisenberg

Sources: Special memorial booklet, BEAUTIFUL THORN-ROSE CEMETERY, Staunton, 1907; Waddell's ANNALS OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, second edition, 1902, reprinted by C. J. Carrier Company, Bridgewater, Virginia, 1958.

Twenty-eighth of a Series

OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY

The Home of Miss Mary Frances Suter

Located on the east side of U.S. 11, south of Fort Defiance

by Gladys B. Clem

This is the home of Miss Mary Frances Suter and her mother, the late Mrs. Elizabeth Dundore Suter. It is thought to have been built sometime in 1789. It was purchased by Mrs. Suter from S. H. Crawn in 1920. It was remodeled in 1940 by Mrs. Suter who had numerous architectural changes made.

The windows of downstairs rooms are all original with twelve panes of glass in them. The floors, which also are original, were all removed and each board turned over and waxed until it had the appearance of a new board. Through the years they have taken on a wonderful patina.

It is a house of 8 rooms and two baths. In the entrance hall there stands a historic grandfather's clock made by Dundore



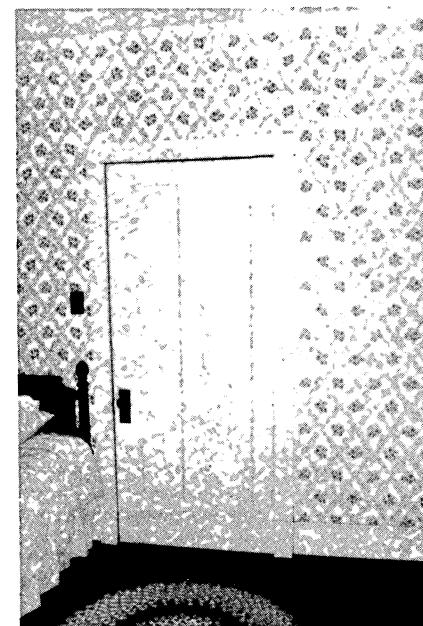
Home of Miss Frances Suter

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM BUSHMAN



A hand turned balustrade with handmade medallions at the end of each step.

Two panel door.





A bright and sunshiny dining room with corner cupboards in either corner.

sometime in the 1700s. It was last renovated in the 1840s, but still keeps excellent time.

The exterior of the house was of stucco with the walls filled by brick noggin and hand hewn timbers put together with mortise and tennon joints and wooden pins in the basement. These have given the house a decided charm. There had been fireplaces in each room, but two of the pine mantels have been placed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Suter. The original spring house stands just behind the house with a never failing supply of cool fresh water. There are four springs on the place. When Mrs. Suter remodeled she thought it best to use siding, but the two large stone chimneys were left unchanged.

The Reverend Mr. Conrad Speece, the third pastor of Old Stone Presbyterian Church, died in this home in February of 1836 while it was in the occupancy of Dr. Allen. Records in the Augusta County Clerk's office show that it was the property of Dr. James Allen, an elder in the Old Stone Church for 40 years. He died in 1847.

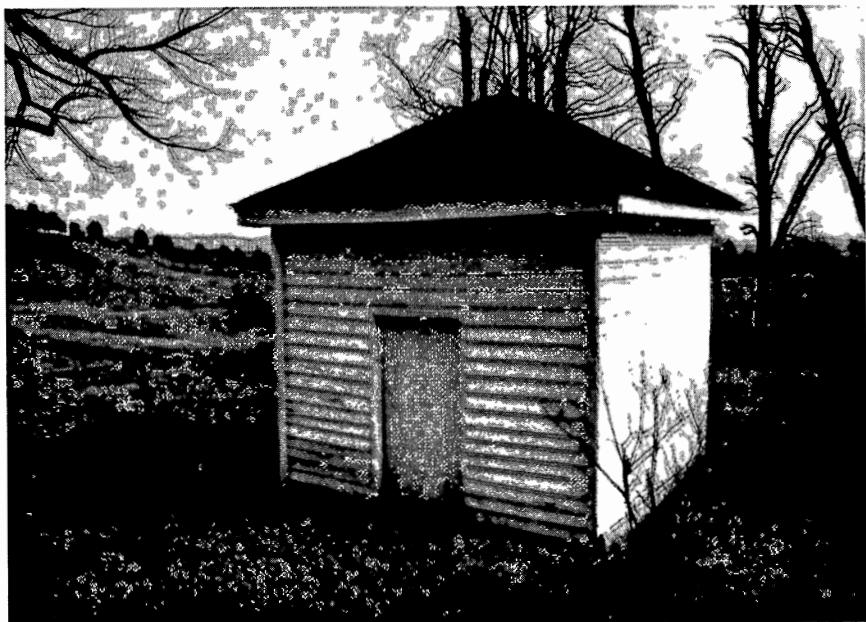
Two wings have been added. The one on the left, a garage, while the one on the right provides the space for a bright and



A stately grandfather's clock greets one as they enter.



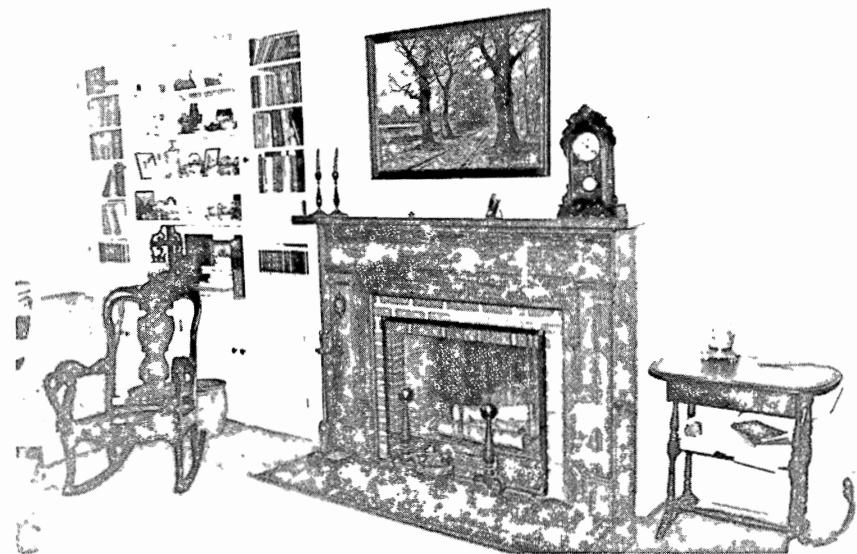
The floors have a wonderful patina.



The original springhouse.



The mantel in the living room



Original pine mantel now in home of Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Suter.



Hand hewn timbers show they are put together with mortise and tenon pins.

airy kitchen. The front door is solid with a square fanlight and side glass.

As one enters, a stairway leading to the second floor shows a hand turned balustrade and hand made decorations at the end of each step end.

A bedroom furnished in the style of the 1880s and 1890s is to the left of the hall, and opening into this is the living room — a room filled with loved pieces of furniture that have been rubbed into a satin-like finish. Directly back of this room there is a bright and sunshiny dining room, with corner cupboards in either corner.

Numerous pottery items are scattered throughout the house. These were made by Miss Suter's grandfather, Emmanuel Suter, a well-known potter of Harrisonburg. The house is built on a knoll with the front on practically ground level, while the back runs to four stories, counting the basement as one floor.

Miss Suter has led a purely academic life. She graduated from Mary Baldwin College, then went on to the University of Illinois where she received her Masters Degree. After graduation she entered the Administration department of the University, remaining there until her retirement when she returned to Virginia, and this lovely home.

IN MEMORIAM

*William B. Alwood III

Mrs. David J. Crawford

*General E. Walton Opie

*Dr. James Sprunt

*Charter member

NEW MEMBERS

since November 1981

Mrs. J. Steven Arehart, Waynesboro, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel E. Arehart, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Brown, Staunton, Virginia
Mrs. Edwin Engleman, San Jose, California
Ms. Elizabeth A. Grubbs, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Mrs. Emma G. Hanson, Greenville, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Harris, Staunton, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. R. P. Harrison, Waynesboro, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. Dallas Hemp, Middlebrook, Virginia
Dr. Kenneth W. Keller, Staunton, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Kirkpatrick, Staunton, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. John M. McChesney III, Waynesboro, Virginia
Lt. Col. Walter M. McCracken (Ret.), Staunton, Virginia
Dr. & Mrs. Richard W. Nebel, Waynesboro, Virginia
Mrs. Vincent J. Oliver, Beltsville, Maryland
Mr. Larry T. Palmer, Waynesboro, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gordon Patterson, Lyndhurst, Virginia
Mr. Charles L. Peery, Florence, Alabama
Mr. James H. Roadcap, Jr., Harrisonburg, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Sorrells, Jr., Staunton, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Speck, Greenville, Virginia
Miss Frances Suter, Fort Defiance, Virginia
Mrs. Blanche Swortzel, Staunton, Virginia
Mr. David McGuire Trayer, Florence, Alabama
Mrs. Raymond Watson, Hampton, Virginia
Mr. Raymond W. Watson, Jr., Columbia, Maryland
Mr. & Mrs. Meredith Yeago, Staunton, Virginia

Presidents of the Augusta County Historical Society

*Dr. Richard P. Bell, 1964-1966
*Harry Lee Nash, Jr., 1966-1967
*Dr. Marshall M. Brice, 1967-1968
*Dr. James Sprunt, 1968-1970
*Richard M. Hamrick, Jr., 1970-1972
Joseph B. Yount III, 1972-1974
*Mrs. William Bushman, 1974-1976
*John M. Dunlap, Jr., 1976-1977
Miss Mary Kathryn Blackwell, 1977-1979
Mrs. Harry D. Hevener, 1979-1981
*John M. McChesney, Jr., 1981-1983

*denotes Charter Member of Society